

## Around the universities and research institutes



On 22 May, the **Australian Academy of Science** announced the election of 21 new fellows, seven of them in medical and health fields. They are: Professor Ian Chubb, former vice-chancellor of the **Australian**

**National University** (2001-2011) and former Chief Scientist of Australia (2011-2016), for significant contributions to improving the infrastructure for scientific research and training and for being conspicuous in raising the public profile of science in the media; Professor Philip Hugenholtz, a microbiologist from the **University of Queensland**, who has made landmark contributions in the field of culture-independent analysis of micro-organisms and whose contributions have raised awareness of the human microbiome and its role in health and disease; Professor Mark Smyth, an immunologist from the **QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute**, for his significant contributions to tumour immunology, paving the way for effective

immunotherapy of cancer, beginning with immune checkpoint inhibitor drugs; Professor Lois Salamonsen, from the **Hudson Institute of Medical Research**, for her transformative contributions to human fertility/infertility related to the uterus, including delivering new translational concepts to alleviate uterine infertility without IVF; Professor Melissa Little, from the **Murdoch Children's Research Institute**, for her research on kidney development and her pioneering studies into renal regeneration, opening the door to kidney disease modelling, drug screening and



the bioengineering of replacement kidney tissue; Professor Jozef Gécz, a human molecular geneticist from the **University of Adelaide**, for his contributions to the genetics of childhood onset neurological disorders, including intellectual disabilities, epilepsies, autisms and cerebral palsies, including identifying the first gene for non-syndromic intellectual

disability, the FMR2 gene, in 1994 and more than 100 other genes for various forms of neurodevelopmental disabilities; and, Professor David Gardner, an embryologist from the **University of Melbourne**, whose basic animal research laid the foundation for major clinical developments in human IVF, resulting in significant increases in human pregnancy rates.



<https://www.science.org.au/fellowship/fellows/new-fellows/fellows-elected-2017>



Dr Joseph Doyle, **Burnet Institute's** Deputy Program Director, Disease Elimination and Co-head, Viral Hepatitis Research, has been awarded the 2017 Gust-McKenzie Medal for his outstanding research in the epidemiology, management and



prevention of blood borne viruses (HIV, hepatitis C and hepatitis B). Named in honour of the founding directors of the Burnet and Austin Research Institutes, Professor Ian Gust AO and Emeritus Professor Ian McKenzie AM, the award is presented annually to an outstanding mid-career Burnet staff member in recognition of excellence in research and/or public

health. In his acceptance address at Burnet's 28th Annual General Meeting, Dr Doyle said that the availability of new highly effective medications had the potential to transform the health prospects of the 200 000 Australians infected with hepatitis C, the majority of whom acquired the virus through injecting drug use. With a background in clinical medicine, Dr Doyle specialised in infectious diseases at The Alfred hospital where he works as a consultant physician. He completed his MPH at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and his public health fellowship was undertaken at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory and Burnet Institute. His PhD at Burnet and **Monash School of Population Health** was focused on the effectiveness of early hepatitis C treatment. Dr Doyle is currently undertaking his NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellowship aiming to improve population health and treatment for hepatitis C infection at Burnet and the Department of Infectious Diseases at **Monash University**. He is the clinical director of Burnet's hepatitis C TAP (Treatment and Prevention) study.

[https://www.burnet.edu.au/news/826\\_dr\\_joseph\\_doyle\\_is\\_2017\\_gust\\_mckenzie\\_medallist](https://www.burnet.edu.au/news/826_dr_joseph_doyle_is_2017_gust_mckenzie_medallist)

doi:10.5694/mja171906C2